

Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 INSE-00 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05

FDRE-00 SCA-01 VO-03 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /062 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO CSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7957

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 1636

FOR AMBASSADOR L DEAN BROWN

E.O. 11652 - GDS

TAGS: AEMG

SUBJECT: RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF: STATE 097854

1. EL SALVADOR IS THE MOST DENSELY POPULATED AND HAS THE HIGHEST POPULATION GROWTH RATE ON THE AMERICAN CONTINENTS, THE AVERAGE PER CAPITA INCOME IS \$305 PER YEAR, UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDER-EMPLOYMENT IS CRITICAL, ESTIMATES RUNNING AS HIGH AS 40 TO 50 PERCENT. EL SALVADOR HAS BEEN CLASSIFIED BY THE UN AS ONE OF THE MOST SEVERLY AFFECTED COUNTRIES IN LA AND IS AMONG THE POOREST.

2. POPULATION PRESSURES RESULTED IN THE MOVEMENT OF SALVADORANS ACROSS THE BORDER OF HONDURAS AND WAS THE PRINCIPAL CAUSE OF THE WAR BETWEEN HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR IN 1969. OUTWARD MOVEMENT OF SALVADORANS IS PRESENTLY CAUSING SOME RELATIONSHIP PROBLEMS WITH BOTH GUATEMALA AND NICARAGUA. TO RELIEVE THIS PRESSURE THERE HAVE BEEN SOME DISCUSSIONS OF RESETTLING SALVADORANS IN BOLIVIA.

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3. ALSO, DUE TO POPULATION PRESSURES THOUSANDS OF SALVADORANS HAVE CROSSED THE US BORDER AND ARE ILLEGALLY LIVING IN THE US. AS THEY ARE APPREHENDED, THEY ARE BEING DEPORTED TO EL SALVADOR. RECENTLY PLANELOADS OF DEPORTEES HAVE BEEN ARRIVING WEEKLY. THIS DEPORTATION IS HIGHLY VISIBLE AND COULD BECOME A DELICATE ISSUE IN OUR RELATIONS WITH EL SALVADOR.

4. FOR THE REASONS OUTLINED ABOVE AN APPROACH TO THE GOES AS OUTLINED IN YOUR REFTEL WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE AND NON-PRODUCTIVE.
CAMPBELL

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